



Albert Smith

Sometimes known as **Zetetes**, **Albert Smith** was an author and Flat Earth advocate during the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. He acted as editor of *Earth Not A Globe Review* and worked extensively with [Lady Blount](#) (aka Zeteo) in the [Universal Zetetic Society](#). Even after relinquishing his position of editor, he continued to write in defense of Flat Earth theory, his most popular book being *Is the Earth a Whirling Globe as Assumed and Taught by Modern Astronomical 'Science'?*. Like other Zetetics of the time, Smith's placed a heavy emphasis on first-hand experience as a means of attaining truth:

"It yet remains for the Copernican school of Astronomy to prove that the Earth upon which we walk about so complacently, and the country which on a fine day looks so calm and peaceful, is flying through space at a total aggregate speed of something like 86,000 miles per hour. Shall we blindly believe a theory which in the nature of things is so impracticable, and a theory which directly contradicts the evidences of our God-given senses? We feel no motion; we see no motion; and we hear no motion; while our senses favour the reasonable and demonstrable fact that the earth is stationary."

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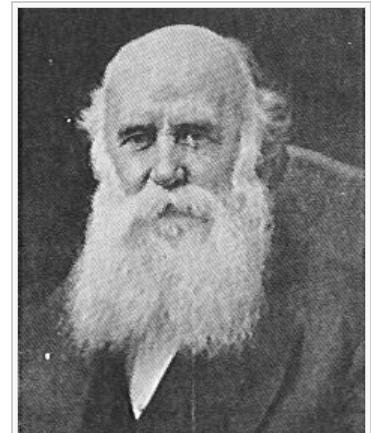
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Alexander Dowie

John Alexander Dowie, May 25, 1847 – March 9, 1907 (aged 59), was a significant Scottish clergyman in the United States of America. He was the founder of the city of [Zion, Illinois](#), and the [Christian Catholic Apostolic Church](#). He was an evangelist and faith healer. Zion was the main focus of Flat Earth teaching in America in the early 20th Century.



John Alexander Dowie 

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Alfred Russel Wallace

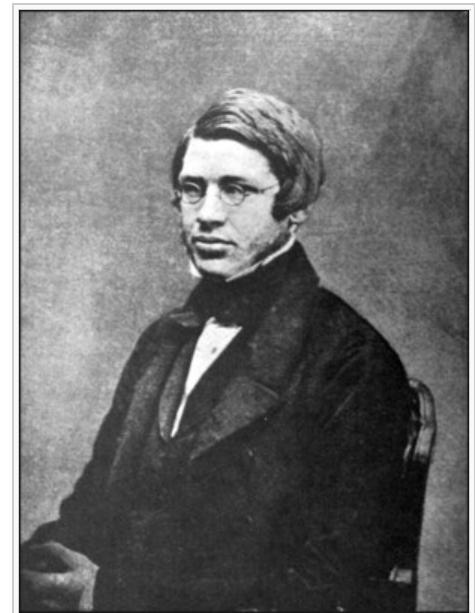
Alfred Russel Wallace (8 January 1823 – 7 November 1913), commonly referred to as A.R. Wallace, was a British anthropologist, naturalist, and biologist.

Contributions to Science

Wallace is perhaps best known for his contributions regarding Charles Darwin and evolution, documented [here](#). He is also known for his arguments regarding Martian Canals (which he did not believe in). He also engaged in the anti-vaccination campaign, and it is believed that he indirectly caused hundreds of deaths due to small pox.

Relation to Flat Earth Theory

In 1870, Wallace, needing money, engaged in a wager with [John Hampden](#) to prove the shape of the Earth. Due to Hampden's hubris, Wallace was allowed to choose the time, place, judge, and experiment. After the experiment was performed, Wallace was declared the winner by the judge, his close friend [John Henry Walsh](#). However, a later court case determined that Walsh and Wallace had cheated, and forced Wallace to return the money. This experiment is often brought up by new members of the society, who are unfamiliar with these details due to the inherent bias in the Wikipedia article regarding it.



Alfred Russel Wallace

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Charles K. Johnson

Charles Kenneth Johnson (July 24, 1924 - March 19, 2001) was the second president of the [Flat Earth Society](#). After the death of [Samuel Shenton](#), Johnson (together with his wife [Marjory](#)) took over the administrative duties of the FES along with his wife. They operated from their own home in Lancaster, California.

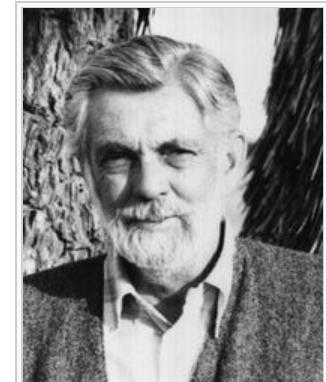
Under Charles K. Johnson's leadership, the society's membership rose to over 3,000 members. Johnson promoted Flat Earth Theory and the Flat Earth Society by passing out flyers, newsletters, and other materials upon request to the public.

Johnson was often interviewed for his views on Flat Earth, and even made an appearance in an ice cream commercial.

Though the Flat Earth Society itself maintained a scientific standpoint, Johnson firmly believed in Biblical reasoning for supporting a flat earth, often citing scripture for verses describing the earth as flat.

Johnson was also an early believer that the moon landing in 1969 was a hoax. Since then, many have come to believe this for various reasons, but Johnson believed the landings were part of a [conspiracy](#) to make people believe in a round earth rather than a flat earth.

A house fire destroyed much of the contact information of the FES, and shortly afterward Johnson's wife died. This was a heavy blow to his administrative abilities over the FES, and led to a decline in membership which continued until his death in 2001.



Charles K. Johnson



External Links

- [The Flat-out Truth: Earth Orbits? Moon Landings? A Fraud! Says This Prophet](#)
- [Charles Johnson, 76, Proponent of Flat Earth](#)

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Ebenezer Breach

Englishman **Ebenezer Breach** (aka "Uncle Ebenezer") was an advocate of Flat Earth theory active in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. He spoke publicly to defend Flat Earth theory and often used models he'd constructed himself to illustrate his arguments. Breach was most active in the Portsmouth area. He also authored a number of tracts including:

- . *Dauntless Astronomy*
- . *Fifty Scientific Facts*
- . *The Greatest Event of the Age: The Downfall of Modern Astronomy*
- . *Twenty Reasons against Newtonianism with Geographical Proofs*

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John Hampden

John Hampden (1819-1891) was an English scientist of the Royal Academy. He believed in Flat Earth Theory and performed the [Bedford Level Experiment](#) several times, most notably as a part of his wager with [Alfred Russel Wallace](#). He vigorously promoted the flat earth idea in England. He founded the Truth-Seeker's Oracle and Scriptural Science Review in 1876. Hampden was a Biblical literalist and based his views on scripture (*No one can believe a single doctrine or dogma of modern astronomy, and accept Scriptures as divine revelation.*) although he defended them through observation and experiment.

Early Life

Hampden was born to John and Margaretia Hampden in 1819. Not much is known about his childhood apart from the fact that he took great interest in both science and religion.

Wager with Wallace

In 1870, John Hampden offered £500 to anyone who could prove that the Earth was round by repeating the [Bedford Level Experiment](#). Alfred Russel Wallace, needing money, accepted the offer and the two went to the Bedford Level to perform [Rowbotham's](#) experiment.

Although Wallace has been awarded the bet by the referee, [John Henry Walsh](#), an editor of *The Field* sports magazine, Hampden took an issue with the execution of the experiment, which deviated from Rowbotham's description, and rejected his demonstration. Despite his objections, the money was awarded to Wallace. Hampden then produced a pamphlet titled *Is Water Level Or Convex After All? The Bedford Canal Swindle Detected & Exposed*, accusing Wallace of cheating.^[1]

He then sued A. R. Wallace, claiming the bet to be invalid, and issued multiple postcards demanding the return of his money as well as accusing him of being a *cheat, a swindler, an impostor, and a thief* (among other things). His persistence caused Wallace to sue Hampden for libel. After many long court battles the bet was deemed to be invalid and Hampden's money was returned to him in full. However, throughout the resolution of the conflict, Hampden had to pay multiple libel suits to Wallace, issue two apologies and was ultimately imprisoned for his remarks.

The court case, together with some of Hampden's libelous remarks, was described in *The Times* in March 1875:

Mrs. Wallace
Madam — If your infernal thief of a husband is brought home some day on a hurdle, with every bone in his head smashed to pulp, you will know the reason. Do you tell him from me he is a lying infernal thief, and as sure as his name is Wallace he never dies in his bed.
You must be a miserable wretch to be obliged to live with a convicted felon. Do not think or let him think I have done with him.
—John Hampden in a letter to Wallace's wife

John Hampden was then charged with a libel on Mr. A. Russell Wallace.

Mr. Woollett prosecuted ; the prisoner was undefended. The following, which were in the handwriting of the prisoner, and written on postcards, were the libels complained of :—

" If you are not conscious that your conduct has been that of a swindler throughout, why don't you have the view along the six miles of the Bedford Level photographed ? "

And on Messrs Black advertising a new edition of the " Encyclopaedia Britannica," with the prosecutor's name as one of the contributors, the defendant wrote :—

" I have felt it my duty to suggest to the publishers of the new edition of the ' Encyclopaedia ' that the admission of articles from convicted thieves and swindlers cannot possibly do them or their work any credit ; " and offered to furnish them with proofs."

On another post-card he wrote :—

" Croydon, July 28. Sir,—I have received your summons, and, in reply, I beg to state that, so far from knowing my charges to be false, I do now swear, and will swear as long as I have breath, that your conduct towards me has been that of a

cheat, a swindler, an impostor, and a thief, and you shall put me into any Court in the United Kingdom before you compel me to be so robbed and swindled as I have been by you ; and I dare and defy you to show these libels to be false.

" JOHN HAMPDEN."

And on another,—

" I make no secret of having written thousands of letters declaring your conduct to be that of a cheat and a swindler ; and I mean to continue to do so as long as your conduct justifies my making such charges. No lawyer or Law Court in England shall prevent my doing so. I know my position too well. You aware you had an answer to my charges. Is this a perfumed lie or not ? Did you ever know a thief who would hesitate to tell a thousand lies ? I only wonder your wife and family are not ashamed to live with you. How much longer is this to last ? Do not dream of my getting tired.

" JOHN HAMPDEN."

The defendant pleaded in justification that the charges were true and published for the public benefit.

This plea, unless successful, is by Act of Parliament deemed an aggravation of the original offence ; but the defendant persisted in doing so. It appeared that in 1870 the prosecutor accepted a wager of £500, offered by the defendant, that he could not prove that there was a visible curvature in six miles of water : and the stakes, after an

experiment conducted on the Bedford Level Canal, were handed over to him. Since that time the prosecutor had been subjected to constant annoyance from the libellous attacks of the defendant.

The defendant sought, in cross-examination of the prosecutor, to show that the wager was not fairly won by Mr. Wallace, and that the libellous matters were therefore so far justified.

But the LORD CHIEF JUSTICE pointed out that even were there any grounds for the defendant's assertion that the wager had been unfairly decided, which Mr. Wallace denied, the language of the alleged libels was altogether unreasonable, and in his address to the jury the defendant admitted that he was heartily ashamed of the words he had used, but would not withdraw the charges made, and in the end the jury found the defendant *Guilty*. Mr. Woollett stated that Mr. Wallace had already brought an action and recovered £600, that he had three times prosecuted to conviction, twice obtained apologies, and that defendant had already been sentenced to two years' imprisonment. He was, therefore, sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment and his own recognisance and two surties in £200 that he would keep the peace for two years after the expiration of his imprisonment.

The Hampden-Wallace conflict greatly popularised the Bedford Level Experiment, giving it media attention and encouraging some individuals to reproduce it.

References

- ↑ Hampden, John (1870): *The Bedford Canal swindle detected & exposed.* A. Bull, London.



Joseph Holden

Joseph Holden (1815-1900) was a prominent American Flat Earth lecturer in the late 19th Century. The son of a sawmill owner in Otisfield, Ohio, Holden was a former justice of the peace, trial justice, candidate for state senator and census enumerator before beginning to lecture at the age of 75. Much like [Lady Blount](#), Holden used a non-confrontational approach in his lectures and was well-liked by both believers and non-believers who attended his lectures. Holden appealed to common-sense evidence to argue his position. One of his more famous experiments was to set a pail of water atop a pole overnight and check it in the morning. His assertion was that a revolving Earth would have moved the pail. As expected, the pail was in its original place the next morning.

From <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mecotisf/bicenhs.htm>: *Probably the best known citizen of Rayville is Joseph W. Holden (1815-1900), mill owner and later prominent member of the Flat Earth Society. Because Joe Holden willed a small sum in support of a Sunday School picnic, East Otisfield still celebrates a Joe Holden Day each summer, honoring "the old astronomer" who, as the inscription of his gravestone tells, "discovered that the Earth is flat and stationary, and that the sun and moon do move."*



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Lady Blount

Sometimes known as **Zeteo**, **Lady Elizabeth Anne Mould Blount** was a vocal advocate of Flat Earth theory in late 19th and early 20th Centuries and one of the founders of the [Universal Zetetic Society](#). She worked extensively with [Albert Smith](#) ('Zetetes') to propound their Flat Earth viewpoint. Lady Blount was a devout Christian and her writings used a mix of scriptural and experimental arguments to support her views. Blount's wealth and social status allowed her access to England's social elite. Her Universal Zetetic Society's first membership roster includes an archbishop, major-general, scholars and a number of other aristocrats. By practically all accounts, Lady Blount was likable and good-natured, balancing out some of the more contentious members of the Flat Earth movement at the time.

In addition to her work with the Universal Zetetic Society, she was also poet, songwriter and wrote pamphlets on a wide variety of subjects. Blount was a progressive thinker and humanitarian. She was a vegetarian and - like [Marjory Johnson](#) - an anti-vivisectionist, often using the *Earth Not A Globe Review* to "cover these subjects in flowing prose and verse, alongside references to her work as president of the Society for the Protection of the Dark Races".

In 1898, Lady Blount published a novel titled [Adrian Galilio, or a Song Writer's Story](#), a fantastical story about an aristocrat who escapes her unhappy marriage and reinvents herself as a world-famous Flat Earth proponent who "tours Europe giving elaborate lectures on cosmology, the creation, true love and hell".



Lady Blount



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Leo Ferrari

Dr. Leo Charles Ferrari (8th December 1927 - 7th October 2010^[1]), a professor at St. Thomas University^[2], was a co-founder, president, and active member of the Flat Earth Society of Canada^{[2][3]} (later renamed Flat Earth Society, unaffiliated with the modern society).

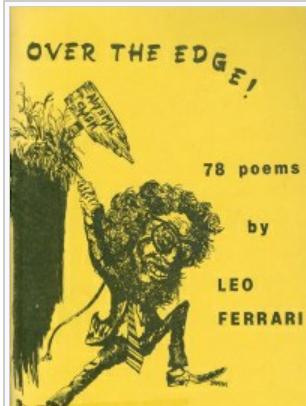
Ferari and Flat Earth

Dr. Ferrari took a very post-modern approach to the Flat Earth Theory, proposing to overturn the authority of scientists and instead rely on one's own perception of the Earth's shape. He argued that no authority can deterministically claim what is and isn't true, and hoped to restore the sense of validity of personal inquiry and perception. This was largely in response to "science's insistence on the things unseen". Ferrari worried that society was being blinded by science and technology, and that they had lost touch with their own bodies and rational conclusions.

His promotional brochure, subtitled "We're on the level", stated the following postulates^[4]:

- . *We believe in terra firma, and the more firmer the less terror.*
- . *All science, like all philosophy and all religion is ultimately metaphorical and... reality is essentially mystical and poetical.*
- . *Our aim is to restore man's faith in Common Sense... Seeing is believing. ...Man has been blinded by metaphysics, brainwashed by popular fallacies and bullied into denying the evidence of his very own eyes!*

Leo also wrote poetry, a lot of which had to do with the Flat Earth.



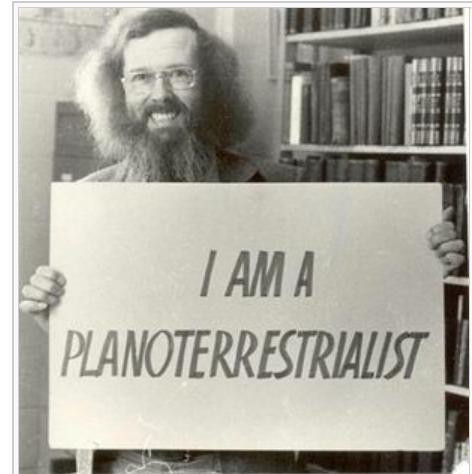
"Over the Edge", one of many collections of Leo Ferrari's poems, largely themed around the Flat Earth Theory

External links

- . [DR. FERRARI AND THE FLAT EARTH SOCIETY](#) by Alden Nowlan

References

1. ↑ [Leo Charles Ferrari - obituary](#)
2. ↑ [2.0 2.1 Leo Charles Ferrari](#) at The New Brunswick Literary Encyclopedia
3. ↑ [UNB Archives-Leo C. Ferrari Fonds-Introduction](#)
4. ↑ [The Flat Earth](#) by Donald E. Simanek



Leo Ferrari frequently described himself and his kin as *planoterrorists*.

Introducing—

The Flat Earth Society

Or...
many things
you wanted to know
about The Flat Earth Society
and were afraid to ask

The Flat Earth Society is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to restoring the philosophy of human reality. Its prime goal is therefore the alleviation of man's ignorance about the Earth upon which mankind lives and moves and has its being.

"We're on the level"

Leo Ferrari's introductory leaflet to the Flat Earth Society of Canada





"The average man can't advance a single reason for believing that the world is round. He accepts that theory on blind faith and rejects the evidence of his own senses. We of the Flat Earth Society have elected to dispute the one premise that our scientific Western civilization regards as indisputable. Nowadays if you say that God is dead, the general reaction is 'so what?' but if you say that the earth is flat, then God help you."

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Marjory Johnson

Marjory Johnson was the wife of [Charles K. Johnson](#), leader of the [Flat Earth Society](#) from 1971 until his death in 2001. Marjory, a native Australian, met Charles in 1959 in a San Francisco record store. They were eventually married and Marjory moved to the United States. Marjory acted as Secretary for the Flat Earth Society. She also was a regular contributor to the [Flat Earth News](#). A vegetarian and animal rights advocate, she often wrote about her anti-vivisection stance. After suffering serious health problems in her later years, Marjory Johnson died on May 19, 1996.



Marjory Johnson

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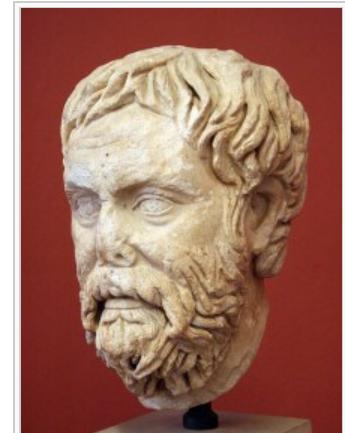
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Pyrrho

Pyrrho (c. 360 B.C.E. - c. 275 B.C.E.), a Greek philosopher from Elis, was credited in antiquity as being the first skeptic philosopher and the inspiration for the school known as Pyrrhonism. His followers adopted the label "zetetic" (Greek meaning "seeker") and stressed the importance of observation and personal experience as a path to truth claiming that man can only know the world as it appears to him. This approach had a heavy influence on members of the Flat Earth movement of the 19th Century, many of whom adopted the label for themselves, forming the [Universal Zetetic Society](#).



Pyrrhonism

Pyrrhonism is an ancient Greek philosophy of extreme skepticism. Pyrrhonists hold no dogmatic beliefs about reality, neither affirming that reality can be known or that it cannot: rather the Pyrrhonist says that investigation has so far not reached a conclusion and so judgement is suspended. It has originally been discussed in Aenesidemus's *Pyrrhoneia*.

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Samuel Rowbotham

Samuel Birley Rowbotham (AKA Parallax) (1816 – 1884), was an English inventor and writer who wrote [Zetetic Astronomy: Earth Not a Globe](#), based on his decade-long scientific studies of the earth, published a 16-page pamphlet (1849), which he later expanded into a 430 page book (1881) expounding his views. According to Rowbotham's scientific method, which he called [Zetetic Astronomy](#), the earth is a flat disk centered at the North Pole and bounded along its southern edge by a [wall of ice](#), with the sun, moon, planets, and stars only a few thousand miles above the surface of the earth.

Rowbotham and his followers gained notoriety by engaging in raucous public debates with leading scientists of the day. One such clash, involving the prominent naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace, led to several lawsuits for fraud and libel.

After Rowbotham's death, his thousands of followers established the [Universal Zetetic Society](#), published a magazine entitled *The Earth Not a Globe Review* and remained active well into the early part of the 20th century.

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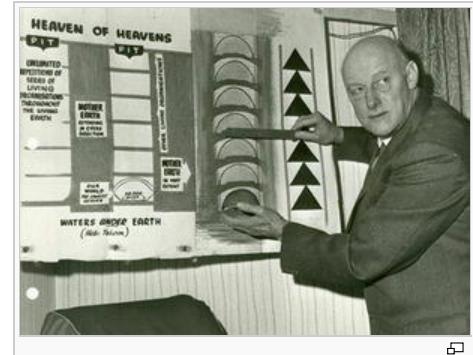




Samuel Shenton

Samuel Shenton, a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society and the Royal Geographic Society, founded the [Flat Earth Society](#) in 1956, after renaming it from the [Universal Zetetic Society](#). He led the Flat Earth Society from its founding in 1956 until his death in 1971, at which time leadership passed to [Charles K. Johnson](#). Shenton collected material, gave lectures and generated publicity for the Society so that by his death in 1971 the Society had over 100 members.

Samuel Shenton managed to acquire a fairly large following and remained the president of the society until his death in 1971. When the first photographs of the earth were published early in the early years of spaceflight, Shenton dismissed them as an optical illusion caused by a wide-angle lens which made the earth seem curved when it was not. Later he would dismiss all the photos as fakes along with the entire space program.



External links

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samuel_Shenton

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Thales

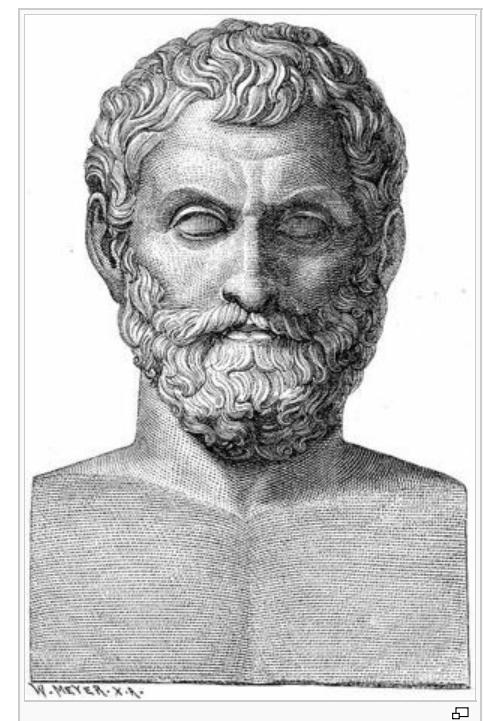
Thales of Miletus (624 BC - 546 BC) is considered by many to be "the first Greek philosopher". His denial of mythology as an acceptable explanation for natural phenomena is a fundamental component of the scientific revolution. He aimed to explain what he could see using reason.

Mathematics

Thales is considered to be the first person to make a mathematical discovery. His discovery is aptly named Thale's theorem. If there exists a circle with points A, B, and C about its circumference, and AC is a diameter, then $\angle ABC$ is a right angle.

Thales and the flat earth theory

Thales theorized that earthquakes were not a result of divine intervention or other supernatural forces, but rather that the earth floats in an ocean of water, and that earthquakes are a result of waves crashing into the earth.



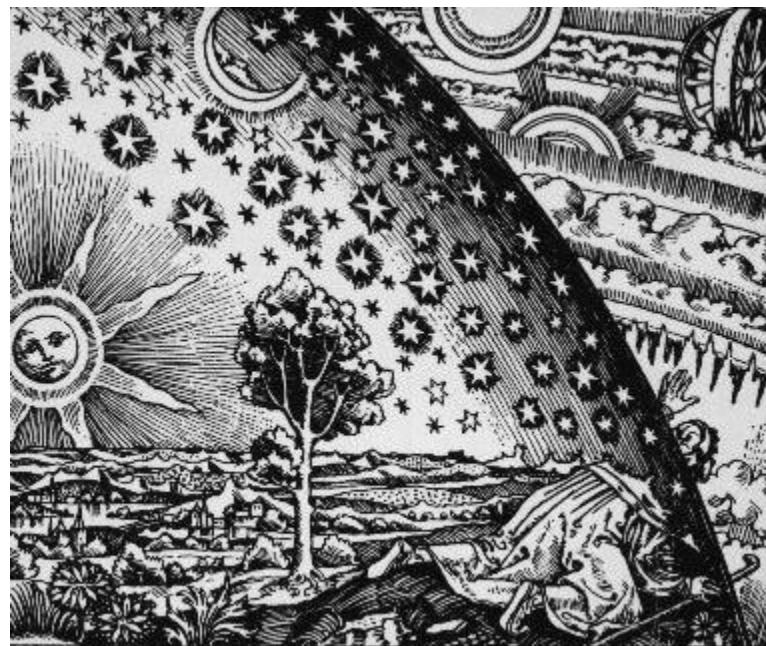
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The Bible's flat earth/solid sky dome universe



This was how the universe appeared to the ancient Israelites who authored the Bible and to most everyone else in ancient times. The earth appeared to be flat and circular sitting on pillars with a rotating solid sky dome overhead which carried the Sun, the Moon, and the Stars and allowed water to leak through "windows of heaven" or sluice gates to form clouds and rain. God was imagined to live on top of the dome and walk on it.

The Hebrew word "shamayim" is translated as both sky and heaven. To the ancient Hebrews they meant exactly the same thing. God lived in and on the sky dome with the Sun, the Moon, and the rest of the "host of heaven"(the stars).

The Bible's flat earth

In the Bible the earth is a round flat object with ends and which is immovable and set on pillars.

Here God is imagined to draw a circle on the face of the waters to make the earth.

(Prov 8:26-27 NRSV) when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil. When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,

A circle is of course a flat round object. Some would say that the ancient Hebrews had no word for sphere so they used circle, but that is not true. There is a Hebrew word for ball used in the bible. A flat round earth was intuitive to these primitive people. If you picture yourself in their place, it would not be too hard to imagine the earth as being round and flat as you turn around to trace the outline of the horizon where the sky seems to meet the earth.

Here God is imagined to sit above the circle of the earth looking down on its inhabitants who are small like grasshoppers.

(Isa 40:22 NRSV) It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in;

Again a circle is a flat two dimensional object and there was a Hebrew word for ball which would have been more appropriate if the author would have been aware of the earth's spherical nature.

Here the author of Daniel writes of a dream of Nebuchadnezzar where a tree grows at the "center" of the earth. Assuming that the tree grew on the surface, this is most certainly the center of a flat earth as a spherical earth would have no center on its surface. Also notice that the tree grew so tall its top reached heaven and was visible to the "ends of the earth". So these verses indicate that Nebuchadnezzar and the author of Daniel pictured a flat earth as everyone else did in their time.

(Dan 4:10-11 NRSV) Upon my bed this is what I saw; there was a tree at the center of the earth, and its height was great. The tree grew great and strong, its top reached to heaven, and it was visible to the ends of the whole earth.

Here it is possible that this gospel author still imagined a flat earth as Jesus is able to see all the kingdoms of the world from a high mountain. This would not be possible on a spherical earth.

(Mat 4:8 NRSV) Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor;

Here the author of Job imagines that God could take the edges of the earth and shake the wicked out of it.

(Job 38:13 NIV) that it might take the earth by the edges and shake the wicked out of it?

Here the author of Job is saying something is longer than the earth. A flat earth with ends could be compared for length, but longer has no meaning for a spherical earth.

(Job 11:9 NRSV) Its measure is longer than the earth, and broader than the sea.

One end of a flat earth to the other end of a flat earth is mentioned here (a spherical earth had no ends).

(Deu 13:7 NRSV) any of the gods of the peoples that are around you, whether near you or far away from you, from one end of the earth to the other,

Again, some would say that the ends of the earth is not be taken literally and that would be true today, but the phrase is leftover from when people used to really believe the earth had ends, which was the case for the ancient Hebrews and most everyone else at that time.

Here is a few more verses that mention the ends of the earth

Deu 28:49, Deu 28:64, Deu 33:17, 1 Sam 2:10, Job 1:7, Job 28:24, Job 37:3, Psa 2:8, Psa 19:4, Psa 22:27, Psa 33:13, Psa 33:14, Psa 48:10, Psa 59:13, Psa 61:2, Psa 65:5, Psa 72:8

The Bible's immovable earth set on pillars

Here the earth is imagined to be set on pillars and immovable.

(Psa 93:1 NRSV) ... He has established the world; it shall never be moved;

(1 Sam 2:8 NRSV) For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and on them he has set the world.

(Isa 24:18 NRSV) or the windows of heaven are opened, and the foundations of the earth tremble.

The Bible's solid sky dome

Here God is imagined to create a solid sky dome that separates the waters into two parts. One would become the oceans and the other would remain above the solid sky dome to provide an explanation of where water came from to cause clouds and rain in the absence of the knowledge of evaporation.

(Gen 1:6-7 NRSV) And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters."

So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so.

Here is another verse which mentions the water above the sky dome.

(Psa 148:4 NRSV) Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Here celestial bodies are attached to this sky dome.

(Gen 1:14-17 NRSV) And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights--the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night--and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth,

Notice that the lights, the Sun, the Moon, and the stars are set inside the sky dome.

Here it is mentioned that the sky dome is hard.

(Job 37:18 NRSV) Can you, like him, spread out the skies, hard as a molten mirror?

(Prov 8:28 NRSV) when he made firm the skies above, ...

God is imagined to walk on top of the sky dome.

(Job 22:14 NRSV) Thick clouds enwrap him, so that he does not see, and he walks on the dome of heaven.'

The sky is imagined as something that has to open to let things pass through it

Here notice that heaven has to be "opened" for things to pass through, things in and above heaven to be seen, and for rainwater to come through. One would think that would not be necessary unless the sky was imagined to be solid. Some would say that this was not be taken literally, but the sky was imagined to be solid in most cultures for over 1500 years after the last books of the bible were written.

(John 1:51 NRSV) And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

(Acts 10:11 NRSV) He saw the heaven opened and something like a large sheet coming down, being lowered to the ground by its four corners.

(Acts 7:56 NRSV) "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"

(Mat 3:16-17 NRSV) And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

(2 Chr 6:26 NRSV) "When heaven (same Hebrew word as sky) is shut up and there is no rain because...

(Psa 78:23 NRSV) Yet he commanded the skies above, and opened the doors of heaven (same Hebrew word as sky);

(Mal 3:10 NRSV) Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing. (talking about rain for crops)

(Rev 11:6 NRSV) They have authority to shut the sky, so that no rain may fall during the days of their prophesying,

(Gen 7:11-12 NRSV) In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. The rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.

Joshua commands the Sun to stand still in the sky

Here Joshua was imagined to have commanded the Sun and the Moon to stand still over particular geographic locations like a helicopter could be imagined to hover over a particular mountain or valley as if the Sun and the Moon were only a few miles high instead of 93 million (Sun) and 1/4 million (Moon) miles away. To the author the Sun and the Moon were attached to a rotating solid sky dome, just a few miles above his head.

(Josh 10:12-13 NRSV) On the day when the LORD gave the Amorites over to the Israelites, Joshua spoke to the LORD; and he said in the sight of Israel, "Sun, stand still at Gibeon, and Moon, in the valley of Aijalon."

And the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, until the nation took vengeance on their enemies. Is this not written in the Book of Jashar? The sun stopped in midheaven, and did not hurry to set for about a whole day.

Jesus probably saw the universe the same way everyone else did in his day

Here it is indicated that Jesus himself pictured the stars as objects that could fall to the earth which would seem reasonable if he pictured the stars as little lights attached to a solid sky dome just a few miles up like everyone else in his day. .

Instead, stars are objects typically millions of times larger than the earth and unimaginably distant.

(Mark 13:24-25 NRSV) "But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.



Thomas Winship

Thomas Winship (aka **Rectangle**) was a South African author and Flat Earth advocate working in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. His best known work is *Zetetic Cosmogony; or Conclusive Evidence that the World is not a Rotating Revolving Globe but a Stationary Plane Circle* (1899).

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Universal Zetetic Society

The **Universal Zetetic Society (UZS)** was the precursor to the [Flat Earth Society](#). It was founded shortly after the death of [Samuel Rowbotham](#) (aka Parallax) by Rowbotham's adherents. The UZS was active well into the early part of the 20th century, publishing many issues of a magazine titled *The Earth Not a Globe Review*. In 1971, the UZS was renamed [The Flat Earth Society](#) when [Samuel Shenton](#) became its leader.

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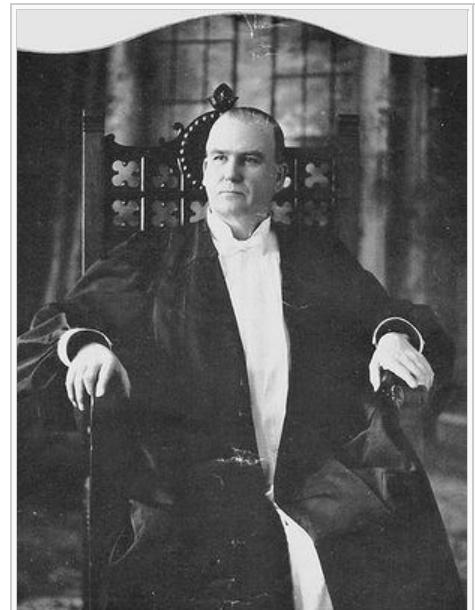




Wilbur Glenn Voliva

Wilbur Glenn Voliva (1870-1942) took control of the community of [Zion, Illinois](#) — a religious community which taught Flat Earth doctrine (through the [Christian Catholic Apostolic Church](#)) — after [Alexander Dowie](#) resigned due to poor health and scandal. He kept tight control over the community and broadcast his Flat Earth agenda from a 100,000-Watt radio station in the town.

Irving Wallace interviewed Voliva in 1932. Voliva declared that the Bible was his entire scientific library. Astronomers were 'ignorant fools'. The sun, he said, was only three thousand miles away and only thirty-two miles in diameter. When asked why he thought the sun so near the earth, he said: "God made the sun to light the earth, and therefore must have placed it close to the task it was designed to do. What would you think of a man who built a house in Zion and put a lamp to light it in Kenosha, Wisconsin?"

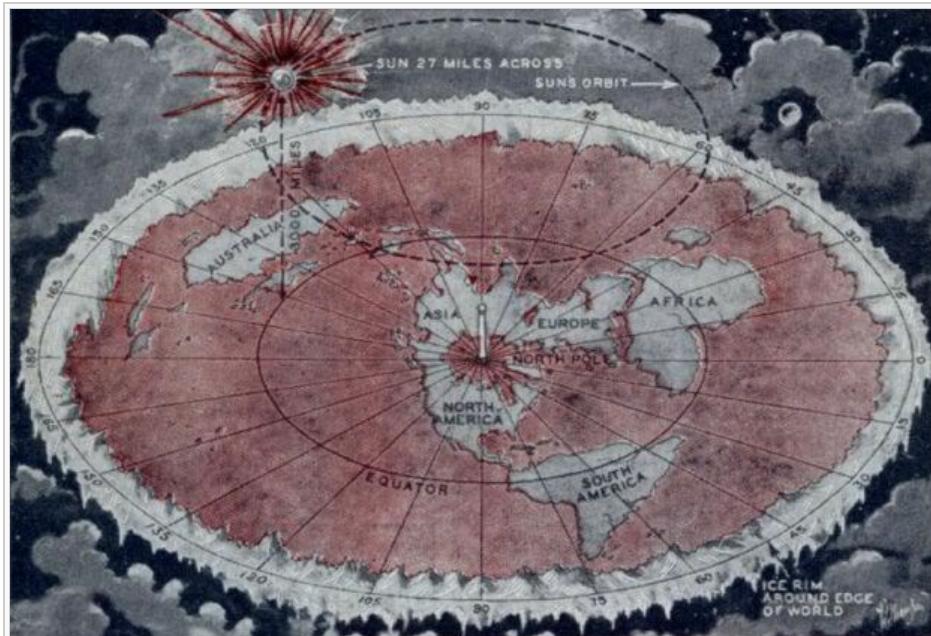


Wilbur Glenn Voliva



External Links

- [Wilbur Glenn Voliva](#) on Wikipedia



The Flat Earth map advocated by Wilbur Voliva



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